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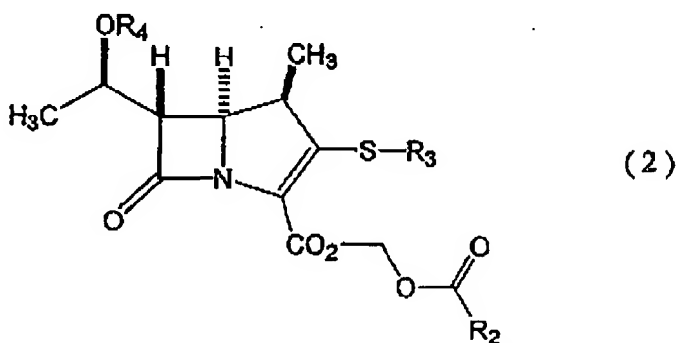
Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. The changes to currently amended claims are shown using strikethrough to identify deleted material and underlining to identify added material.

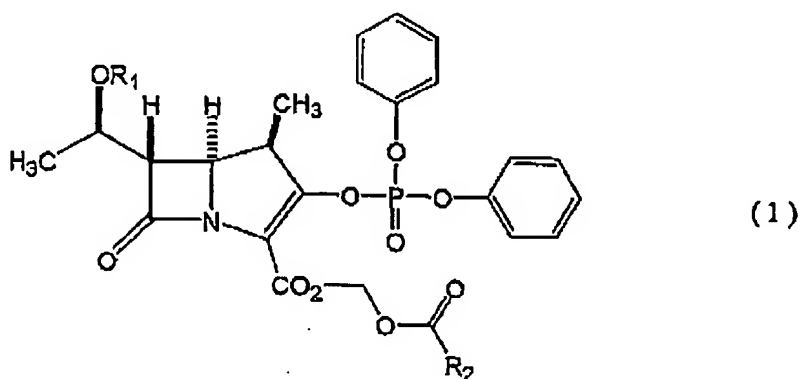
Listing of Claims:

1-2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) ~~The production process according to claim 1 or 2;~~ A process for producing a compound represented by formula (2):



that comprises reacting a compound represented by formula (1):



with a thiol compound represented by formula (3):

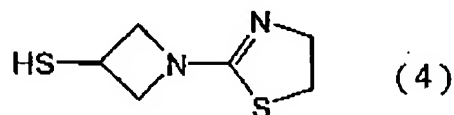


in the presence of a base and optionally eliminating protective group R₁:

wherein R_1 is a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group or a triethylsilyl group;

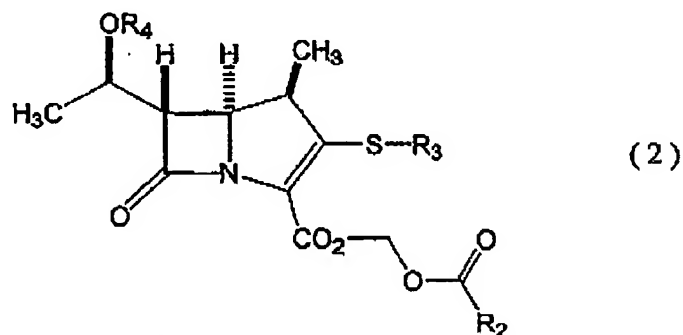
wherein R_2 is an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 10 carbon atoms;

wherein R_3 is the a thiol residue of a thiol compound represented by formula (4):

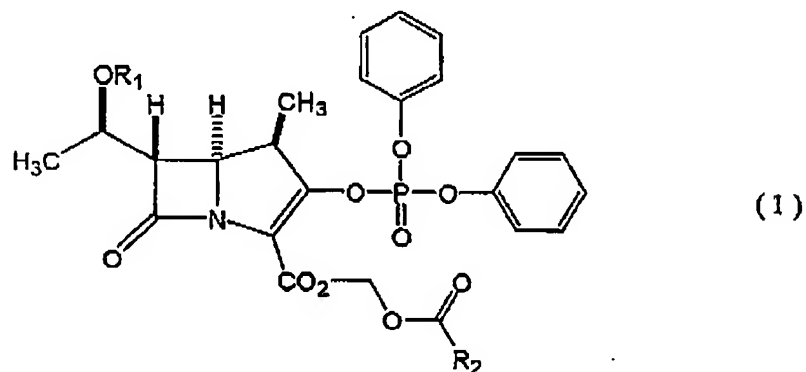


and wherein R_4 is a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group or a triethylsilyl group.

4. (currently amended) The ~~production process according to claim 1 or 2,~~ A process for producing a compound represented by formula (2):



that comprises reacting a compound represented by formula (1):



with a thiol compound represented by formula (3):



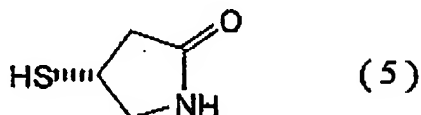
in the presence of a base and optionally eliminating protective group R₁;

wherein R₁ is a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group or a triethylsilyl group;

wherein R₂ is an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group

having 3 to 10 carbon atoms;

wherein R₃ is ~~the~~ a thiol residue of a thiol compound represented by formula (5):



and wherein R₄ is a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group or a triethylsilyl group.

5. (new) The process according to claim 3 or 4, wherein R₂ is a tert-butyl group.